



PRAISE FOR THE 21st CENTURY CONSERVATION CORPS ACT

Jefferson County Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper: “In Jefferson County, our first responders are on the frontlines of two major battles: wildfire risk and COVID-19. The impact of wildfire season coupled with a highly contagious and deadly pandemic place extraordinary pressure on firefighters already stretched thin – both in terms of resources and people. Congressman Neguse’s bill will provide hands-on help to thin unhealthy forests to help reduce wildfire risk, put people back to work, and encourage greater collaboration to identify solutions before a fire starts thanks to a renewed investment in the Firewise program.”

Summit County Commissioner Elisabeth Lawrence: “In Summit County, outdoor recreation is at the heart of our economy, driving tourism and fueling our main street small businesses. As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, investments in our outdoor economy, our public lands and support for our firefighters as they enter wildfire season will be crucial. We applaud Congressman Neguse's efforts to create an economic stimulus and recovery plan that puts our mountain communities and the needs of the west front and center.”

Teresa Martinez, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition: “The 21st Century Conservation Corps Act is much needed relief for many Continental Divide communities that have suffered on the frontlines of the climate crisis. The investments in lands, trails, and waters in this bill would directly safeguard the forest health, trail maintenance, and habitat restoration that many rural communities have come to depend on, not only for their public health, but for their economic vitality as well. This important legislation will help provide relief for those communities now, while also protecting public lands and investing in the economies that depend on them, well into the future.”

Jayni Rasmussen, Senior Campaign Representative for the Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK) and Youth Sierra Club: “The [Outdoors Alliance for Kids](#) applauds Congressman Neguse for introducing the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act. This legislation will advance critical youth engagement programs like Every Kid Outdoors, target investment in urban park projects for families and communities that have been disproportionately denied access to the outdoors and create thousands of jobs for young adults to conserve our public lands and waters for the benefit of generations to come.”

Kirin Kennedy, Deputy Legislative Director for the Sierra Club: “This bill provides urgently needed funds to protect workers, support the outdoor recreation economy and increase employment opportunities, while restoring parks and public lands, reducing maintenance backlogs and helping create fire-smart communities. It will provide immediate relief while setting up sustained recovery for both our economy and our outdoor spaces.”

Erik Murdock, Policy Director for Access Fund: “In these challenging times, our country is ripe for the 21st Century Conservation Corps program that welcomes all young Americans to an inclusive work and training system that promotes a conservation ethic and public service. Our public lands can be a significant part of America’s economic recovery effort by creating jobs, mitigating wildfire, supporting recreation opportunities, and bootstrapping local economies and mountain towns. Access Fund supports Congressman Neguse and Senator Wyden in their efforts to make this vision a reality.”

Kelly Pawlak, President/CEO, National Ski Areas Association: “Ski areas commend Senator Wyden for his bold action in helping our country, and the recreation sector, through these unprecedented times. This bill will help with recovery in mountain communities, and we are extremely grateful for his hard work on our behalf.”

Kelly Pawlak, President and CEO, National Ski Areas Association: “Rep. Neguse has always been an advocate for outdoor recreation, and the ski industry appreciates his leadership. We look forward to joining with all outdoor recreation stakeholders in support of passage of this bill, which is critical to recovery for outdoor recreation and those whose livelihoods depend on it.”

Tyson Bertone-Riggs, Policy Analyst, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition: “In the wake of a devastating economic and public health crisis, restoring and maintaining America’s watersheds, forests and grasslands will be vital to providing new economic opportunity. This bill not only proposes to create much-needed jobs in rural communities, but will also help to overcome some of the most pressing natural resource problems facing the West. This legislation directly addresses critical needs including fire risk reduction, watershed restoration, habitat conservation, and support for the imperiled outfitter guide business community. This bill also puts rural communities front and center by encouraging contracting that supports local business and allows rural community groups to be full partners in restoration projects and job creation. The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC) thanks Senator Wyden and Representative Neguse for their leadership and unwavering commitment to communities and the land.”

Susan Jane M. Brown, Staff Attorney, Western Environmental Law Center: “Reinvesting in America’s public lands is a win for all of us who work and play on these lands. This legislation will provide important support for critical programs that are essential to stewardship of our national forests, parks, and other public lands.”

Joe Whitworth, President & CEO, The Freshwater Trust: “With smart investments in our family farms, community water supplies, outfitters, and wildfire reduction, we can build the dependable rural jobs and resiliency we need in our ever-changing world. By pursuing real outcomes, this proposal would get people back to work on the land, in the woods, and on the water. It would improve federal partnerships to uncork the can-do spirit of communities across the country—and do it at the right scale and speed to make a difference on problems right now.

Jim Ramey, Colorado State Director for The Wilderness Society: “Now, more than ever, we need leadership from our elected officials in Congress to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout. Rep. Neguse has answered that call with this bill. The 21st Century Conservation Corps Act recognizes the significant role public lands and the outdoor industry plays in our nation’s economy and the health of our communities. This bill rightfully looks to our

public lands to spur the economic recovery, put people to work stewarding our local parks and national treasures, and support equitable access to quality close-to-home parks for communities most in need. Lawmakers from across the country should be able to get behind this common-sense idea.”

Diane Regas, President and CEO of The Trust for Public Land: “A historic, one-time investment in local parks would stimulate the creation of thousands of jobs and economic activity, expand park access for the one-in-three Americans who do not have a close-to-home park, while creating and improving parks in the neighborhoods where they are needed most and are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. I’m grateful for Sen. Wyden and Rep. Neguse’s leadership, and pleased that a wide ranging group of advocates and non-profit organizations are coming together to support universal access to quality, close-to-home parks.”

Mary Ellen Sprenkel, The Corps Network’s President and CEO: “On behalf of America’s Service and Conservation Corps, I extend deep appreciation to Rep. Neguse on reintroduction of the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act. Corps in Colorado and across the United States currently engage thousands of young adults in critical projects to restore habitats, mitigate the risk of wildfires, increase access to the outdoors, and help communities respond to COVID-19. Expanding Corps and providing opportunities for thousands of additional young people to work will help our country make a substantial impact in addressing climate change, the pandemic, and the economic downturn. We look forward to working with Rep. Neguse in implementation of this legislation.”

Ian Stafford, Colorado Policy Strategist at American Whitewater: “American Whitewater is thrilled to see the introduction of the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act. Across the country we see the outdoor recreation economy becoming more ingrained in communities, and this legislation will help continue to grow the industry in a sustainable and healthy way. In the long run, we’re confident this legislation will ensure our nation’s public lands and waters, recreationists of all backgrounds, commercial operators, and local economies are protected and enhanced by providing reliable jobs and income to communities across the country.”

Bruce Daucsavage, General Director of Ochoco Lumber: “For the past 90 plus years, our business has provided good-paying jobs in our communities that seek to improve forest health and support efforts to protect the public from increased wildfire risks. This bill provides practical and immediate solutions that will address the most pressing challenges facing the well-being of our forests and communities in eastern Oregon, and sustain essential infrastructure on our public lands. We commend Senator Wyden and Representative Neguse for investing in programs that work, and for supporting collaborative partnerships that can create a safer and healthier future in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Erik Murdock, Policy Director for Access Fund: “In these challenging times, our country is ripe for the 21st Century Conservation Corps program that welcomes all young Americans to an inclusive work and training system that promotes a conservation ethic and public service. Our public lands can be a significant part of America’s economic recovery effort by creating jobs, mitigating wildfire, supporting recreation opportunities, and bootstrapping local economies and mountain towns. Access Fund supports Congressman Neguse and Senator Wyden in their efforts to make this vision a reality.”

John Gale, Conservation Director for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers: “On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and as a constituent from Pine, Colorado, I applaud Rep. Neguse for introducing the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act. By putting people back to work with shovel-ready projects and addressing the improved management of our forests and watersheds, we not only create healthier wildlife habitats; we also safeguard water resources, reduce hazardous fuel loads to protect our communities, and enhance restoration efforts by leveraging private and public investments in forest health.”

Lise Aangeenbrug, Executive Director of the Outdoor Industry Association: “The outdoor industry welcomes the reintroduction of the 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act and stands ready to be a key partner in fulfilling its commitment to making lands and waters a cornerstone of economic recovery. In addition to creating new jobs, CCC would reinforce the well-being of the \$788 billion outdoor economy and could be instrumental to implementing the projects made possible through last year’s bipartisan passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. We are thankful to Congressman Neguse and Senator Wyden for their leadership in revitalizing a spirit of conservation and a program with a rich history of carrying Americans through difficult times.”

Aaron Bannon, Executive Director of America Outdoors Association: “Outfitters and guides were hard-hit by the pandemic, and many were not able to open their doors at all. For them, existing government support was insufficient. The 21st Century Conservation Corps for Health and Safety Act will ensure that these businesses will survive and thrive to serve the surge of interest among the American people in pursuing facilitated recreational opportunities on our public lands.”

Lindsey Davis, Acting Executive Director of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable: “America’s public lands and the outdoor recreation industry they support are critical to the economic survival of rural communities across the country. Conservation Corps play an integral role in protecting and maintaining these lands, as well as building a diverse workforce and fostering the next generation of outdoor stewards and enthusiasts.”

Jad Daley, President and CEO of American Forests: “America is moving through a perfect storm of climate, health, and economic challenges. We require bold legislation that meets this moment, which is why American Forests is proud to endorse the *21st Century Conservation Corps Act*. This must-pass legislation will put people back to work restoring our forests and public lands to maximize natural carbon capture and resilience to climate change and protect our most vulnerable urban neighborhoods by planting Tree Equity for natural cooling and cleaner air. We commend Senator Wyden and Congressman Neguse for their leadership and look forward to helping them pass this vital bill.”